

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

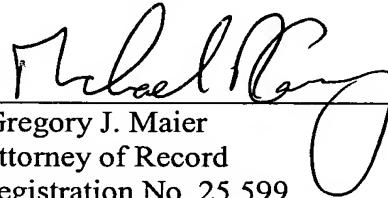
Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-2 have been canceled by the present amendment. Claims 3-20 were the subject of a restriction in the parent application, U.S. application serial no. 08/856,183 filed on May 14, 1997 and are presented herewith for prosecution on the merits.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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